



CITY of NORTHAMPTON
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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For Immediate Release – March 11, 2022

Northampton Board of Health Lifts City Mask Order Effective Immediately

NORTHAMPTON - On March 11, 2022, the Northampton Board of Health voted unanimously to lift the City of Northampton Mask Order. The vote to lift the mask order is effective immediately. The decision was made based on key COVID-19 metrics, which show continued improvement in the prevalence and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in Northampton.

Beginning Friday March 11, 2022, residents and visitors to Northampton will no longer be required by the city to wear a face covering in indoor public spaces, such as gyms, bars and restaurants, museums, and entertainment venues. Individual operators may still choose to require masking.

At this time, the Northampton Public School District still requires face covering indoors and on buses and public school transportation. The Northampton School Committee has scheduled a special meeting for March 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. to consider changing the indoor mask requirement for the schools.

The CDC still requires the wearing of masks by people on public transportation or on the premises of transportation hubs, which includes all passengers and all personnel operating transportation and conveyance facilities (e.g. airports, bus or ferry terminals, train and subway stations, seaports, U.S. Ports of entry and other locations where people board public transportation in the United States, including both indoor and outdoor areas). In addition, masks are required for all individuals in the following indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status: healthcare settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters, long term care settings, etc.

Regardless of vaccination status, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19 are required to wear masks at all times around others while within their 10-day quarantine or isolation period, after meeting criteria to leave strict isolation or quarantine on day 6-10. Detailed information about the Massachusetts isolation and quarantine requirements can be found at mass.gov/isol8.

While masks are no longer mandated in certain indoor settings, Northampton Health Director, Merridith O'Leary recommends masking in these settings if you are at high risk for severe illness or if you will be around individuals who are. There are many people in Northampton who are vulnerable to COVID-19, including individuals who are immunocompromised, seniors, and those who are unvaccinated, including young children. Wearing a well-fitting mask or respirator while indoors minimizes your risk of getting infected with COVID-19 and spreading it to others.

Some people may understandably feel anxious about these changes to masking requirements in the county. People can continue to choose to wear face coverings around others whether it's mandatory or not and should respect people's choices around their health. Community members who are vaccinated and choose not to mask should respect the choices of those who continue to mask. Officials ask residents and visitors to be kind and respectful as people evaluate their risks and make choices to protect themselves and those around them.

For more information, please contact healthdept@northamptonma.gov or call 413-587-1215.